

The Kingdom Focus

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DECEMBER 2014

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The last month of the year is an appropriate time to celebrate the coming of Christ. It speaks of a new beginning; it speaks of leaving the past and experiencing what God has planned for the future. Christmas is about celebrating the revelation of redemption in our redeemer. It is about God giving a new birth and another opportunity to tell the world of our Savior's worth. There was a day when the prophets foretold the coming Messiah. There came a day when the Messiah was born in Bethlehem. There was a day when Jesus, the Christ was despised and rejected by men. There will come a day when every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. There was a day when Jesus stood before Herod's throne to be judged. There is coming a day when Herod will stand before the Throne of Jesus Christ and be judged. Christmas caused the end to turn out like the beginning when God looked at creation and saw that it was good. Christmas reminds us that the world which was in turmoil then has not changed, but we have changed because of Christ. In the midst of this world's tumult we still travel in our minds to Bethlehem finding peace and hope in the birth Christ.

Christmas also gives Christians another occasion to care by demonstrating God's love. Our WMU is collecting Christmas packets for prisoners again this year. Please prepare your packets with prayers that these items will help get the Good News to prisoners wanting to be freed from the bondage of sin. Pastor Abiel faithfully min-

isters to the Hispanic community in our area. He has given us names and ages of children that would greatly appreciate something for Christmas this year. Please call us at the WBA office and we can give you names and ages of these children. We'll be the collection point for Pastor Abiel, but we need the presents at the WBA office by the second week of December in order to distribute them. If your church or Sunday School Class will take part just call and get the information. Christmas is a great time to remember the work that our Baptist Collegiate Minister, David Neace, is doing at Coastal Carolina University. This ministry operates with little and reaps eternal rewards. Often, just a card with a thank you inside gives lasting encouragement. Finally, many of our churches operate food banks and clothes closets all year long. It is the time of year to help stock those ministries with the things people need and the hope that only Christ can give. It is my prayer that God will bless the works of your hands and be gracious to you for caring and keeping the greatest commandment to "Love God with all of your heart and your neighbor as yourself." From all of us at the Waccamaw Baptist Association may you have a blessed Christmas and may God use your labor in the Lord to be a blessing this Christmas.

Michael BeLue
Interim DOM

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This Month's Prayer Focus:

Diane Hutto,
Assistant to the
Director

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **November 30-December 7**—Season of Prayer for International Missions
- **December 4**—Last day to bring Prisoner Packets to the WBA office.
- **December 23- 25**—WBA office closed for Christmas
- **January 1**—WBA office closed for New Year's



SEASON OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

November 30– December 7

For more information, go to:

<http://www.imb.org/main/loftie-moon/default.asp>

UPCOMING EVENT

“Coping with PTSD”

Plan to attend the
“Coping with PTSD” Event
 Wednesday, January 14, 2015
 7:00 pm at
 Wampee Baptist Church
 9530 Highway 90, Longs, SC

Located across from
 North Myrtle Beach
 Christian School
 Rev. Mike Belue,
 Conference Leader

Open to Churches,
 Schools, and the Public

DEADLINE FOR PRISONER PACKETS HAS BEEN EXTENDED!

You can bring prisoner packets
 to the WBA office through
December 4th!



**Have Operation Christmas
 Child shoeboxes that didn't
 make it to a drop-off site
 during National Collection
 Week? Drop them by the
 WBA office by December 4th
 and they will be taken
 to the Charlotte
 Processing Center.**

WBA CHURCH NEWS

Good Hope Baptist—

Welcome J.R. and Ashley Myers as the new Youth Directors; Will have IMB missionaries Jeff & Cyndi Chestnut who serve the Sub-Saharan African peoples, speaking on Sun., Dec. 7 at 6 pm.

Wannamaker Baptist— Is seeking an organist/pianist. Please contact Brian Ling at 843-798-0150 if interested.

Want to share something happening in your church? Email the information to diane@waccamawbaptist.org by the 15th of the month for the following month's publication.

NEWS FROM WACCAMAW WMU

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

What a sweet spirit was present at Pleasant Meadow Baptist Church during the 2014 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer on Monday, November 3! WMU is grateful to Debby Akerman, Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Brown, Eunice Williamson, program participants, Pleasant Meadow Girls in Action and leader, Geraldine Coats, as well as to all women who came to pray for all peoples around the world on this special day. A love offering was taken and a check for \$333.10 has been sent to the North American Baptist Women's Union.

“We're Here for You” was observed by churches, individuals, or groups undertaking special projects on November 7. Waccamaw WMU appreciates those who contributed non-perishable food items for the association-wide project in conjunction with

this event. Seven bags were delivered to CAP in Conway for distribution to those in need.

Guests of Waccamaw WMU enjoyed hearing the latest news of WMU and learning more about the **WMU Foundation at the “Lunch on Monday”** event on November 17, 2014. Special guests were Dr. Jeff Gaskins, pastor of North Conway Baptist Church; Debby Akerman, WMU President; Laurie Register, Executive Director of South Carolina WMU; and David George, President of the WMU Foundation.

Upcoming in 2015:

January 14, “Coping with PTSD” Event, Wampee Baptist Church

February 8, “Missions Celebration” at Maple Baptist Church

Thanksgiving and Christmas ~ two beautiful seasons of the year, giving greater occasion to praise God for His abundant blessings and a time to rejoice and celebrate the birth of Christ.

As we individually and collective-

ly surrender, sacrifice, serve,

Waccamaw WMU extends a grateful “thank you” to each church and individual who makes a difference in growing God's Kingdom! What a blessing to have age-level organizations (Mission Friends, Girls/Children in Action, RA's/Challengers; Acteens; MyMission, Women on Mission, and Adults on Mission) available for children, youth, and adults to grow in the knowledge of the Lord, learn about missions, and to be blessed while blessing others through study, prayer, and mission action! What a joy!

We hope each of you will be blessed as you observe this very special time of the year as we enter the Christmas Season and the Season of International Missions (study, prayer, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering)!

The Leadership Team of Waccamaw WMU extends best wishes to everyone for a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

God Bless. *Peggy Jones, Director*

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. Psalm 29:1-2

As the semester winds down and students begin taking finals and returning home all over the nation, our prayer is that students will see the Lord as glorious and respond accordingly. We have dedicated our Thursday night gatherings this semester to teaching students who the Lord is and we have coupled that with a series, which hits on basic tenants of what it means to be a disciple. Our prayer is that students are more equipped to be disciple-makers than they were just a few months ago.

November was a great month for BCM, and our Fall Retreat kicked off the month. We had a group of 18 students spend the weekend together learning how to study the Bible. Most of that group consisted of new students to the BCM ministry, which is exciting because we are already having the opportunity to train the future leaders of BCM. It was an incredible weekend of fellowship, learning, and hearing from God. Thank you all who made specific gifts to help with the retreat

and thank you to those that faithfully pray for us! BCM also participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. We had a packing party on campus and students came together to pack 81 boxes in a little over an hour. We are prayerful as those boxes go around the world the opportunity for gospel change in children's lives.

December is a relatively slow month for the ministry as students are taking finals and heading home, but there are a couple of ways you can partner with us even during this month. First, we covet your prayers for students. It really is crunch time for students with regard to stress levels concerning grades, going home, and all sorts of things. Please pray for students and open door for ministry. Second, at the beginning of next semester, we will again be participating in Converge, our statewide collegiate conference. However, this year it will not be at the beach; rather it will be in the mountains, and it will be more costly for our students. If you would like to help students go through a scholarship, we would greatly appreciate it.

David Neace, BCM Director
davidneace@hotmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL
 TRAINING
 CONFERENCE
 Led by the
 SC Baptist Convention
 Socastee Baptist Church
 Feb.—Mar. 2015
 Exact date to be announced

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THINK 3%

Would you please consider putting aside 3% of your undesignated gifts to the Association?

Thank you, WBA churches, who are already giving this much.

Christmas Events at Our Member Churches

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST— Will have a Ladies' Christmas Gala on Dec. 6 from 5-7 pm with speaker Phyllis Elvington and Soloist Chevelle Turner. Seating is limited; must purchase ticket. Children's Christmas Play will be Dec. 14 @ 6pm; Chili & Soup Extravaganza is Dec. 17 at 7 pm; Adult Cantata is Dec. 21@11 am; Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion is Dec. 24 @ 6 pm.

MYRTLE BEACH FIRST BAPTIST—Will present the adult Christmas Musical, THREE GIFTS on Sun., Dec. 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

NORTH CONWAY BAPTIST—Will present "Christmas on Sessions Street" on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.

SOCASTEE BAPTIST—Adult Choir will present "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and the Children's Choir will present "A Christmas Gift" on Sunday evening, December 14th beginning @ 6:00 p.m.

SURFSIDE FBC—The Celebration Choir will present "The Journey of the Wisemen" on Nov. 30 (*The Revelation*), Dec. 14 (*Worthy of a King*), Dec. 21 (*Come & Worship*), and Jan. 4 (*He Will Reign*) @ 11 am; Hanging of the Green: "A Night of Instrumental Praise" will be

Sun., Nov. 30 @ 6 pm; The WeeSchool Christmas Program will be Sun., Dec. 7 @ 11 am; The Children's Christmas Presentation, "Christmas in Egypt" will be Sun., Dec. 7 @ 6 pm; Carols and Candles will be Wed., Dec 10 @ 6 pm; A Musical Drama Presentation of "Two From Galilee" will be Sun., Dec. 14 @ 6 pm; Family Night at Christmas with the Socastee Singers will be Wed., Dec. 17 @ 6 pm with a reception to follow; Community Wide Carols and Candle Lighting will be at Plyler Park Stage (next to the Sky Wheel) in Myrtle Beach on Sun., Dec. 21 beginning at 5 pm with a Scavenger hunt and program to follow at 6 pm; Christmas Eve Candle-Lite Communion service on Wed., Dec. 24 @ 6:30 pm.

SWEETWATER BRANCH BAPTIST—Children & Youth Christmas Program, "Christmas on Main Street" will be Sun., Dec. 7 at 6 pm; Live Nativity will be Sat. & Sun., Dec 13-14 from 6-8 pm (free event; refreshments served); Christmas Cantata "Great Day" will be Sun., Dec. 21 at 11 am.

TILLY SWAMP BAPTIST—Is having their Christmas Cantata titled, "The First Noel" on Sunday, December 14th at 6pm. Children's Christmas play will be Dec. 21 @ 6 pm; Christmas Candlelight Service will be Dec. 24 at 6 pm.



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BCM Director—David Neace

Financial Specialist—Nancy Neece

Moderator—Ronny Byrd

Treasurer—Amos Howell

OFFICE HOURS

M—Th 8:30—4:00

Friday—CLOSED

COASTLINE WOMEN'S CENTER UPDATE

Coastline is greatly anticipating and preparing for our Spring to Life Gala in February! This is a tremendous opportunity to introduce the ministry of Coastline to our community. Our theme for the evening will be "Life Worth Fighting For" which exemplifies our commitment to helping both women and men before, during, and after unexpected pregnancies. If you would like to be part of this life saving event please contact our Executive Director of Center Services, Lori Meetre at (843) 591-5244 or

lori@coastlinewomenscenter.org.



Coastline Women's Center gladly accepts donations of maternity clothes, baby clothes, diapers and other baby supplies. Jeanne is also available to speak to your church or women's group. Call the center at 488-9971 for more information.

JUST FOR PASTORS!

Pastors in and around Conway are invited to be part of a group that will meet at Juniper Bay Baptist Church to begin forming a "Band of Brothers" type group as well as a study group for leadership development. They will meet from 9 - 11 AM at Juniper Bay Baptist Church beginning in January 2015 to discuss leadership development. The Third Tuesday will be our normal meeting time. Email James Way or call him for further information. Contact James Way at pastorjames@sccoast.net or 843.344.0770 if you have any questions.



"Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. "

Matthew 2:2

*Merry Christmas
and a
Blessed New Year
from the
Staff
and
Leadership
at WBA*